

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE NEWS FOR SUNDAY 10 JANUARY 2021

Good morning and welcome to the weekly news bulletin of the South African Radio League read by [your name, call sign and QTH]

The South African Radio League broadcasts a news bulletin each Sunday in Afrikaans and in English at 08:15 and 08:30 Central African Time respectively on HF and various VHF and UHF repeaters around the country. The bulletin is relayed on Echolink by Johan, ZS6JPL. The audio and text bulletins can be downloaded from the League website at www.sarl.org.za. To join the bulletin mailing list, send an email to the SARL Secretary.

In the news today:

THE 60 METRE BAND IN SOUTH AFRICA

THE WORKED ALL ZS 60 METRE AWARD

and

THE FIRST 80 M CLUB SPRINT FOR 2021

Stay tuned for more information on these and other interesting news items.

We begin the bulletin this morning with the news of two silent keys:

It is with regret that we announce that the key of Kurt Linsin, ZS5KL went silent on Tuesday 29 December 2020 after a short illness. Kurt was a member of the Durban Amateur Radio Club for more than 30 years and was secretary for the past few years standing down recently. We extend our sincere condolences to his wife Cindy, family and friends.

It is with deep regret that we announce that the key of Nic Cronje, ZS6WW went silent on Thursday 7 January 2021. He was always involved with the OTL Club in the old Eastern Transvaal, later Mpumalanga and looked after the repeaters. He enjoyed sharing his knowledge with fellow radio amateurs. We extend our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

PAUSE

You are listening to a news bulletin of the South African Radio League.

NARC OPENS ON 13 JANUARY

The Office at the National Amateur Radio Centre will open on Wednesday 13 January 2021 after the December holiday break. Welcome back Kelley!

THE 60 METRE BAND IN SOUTH AFRICA

In terms of the outcome of the World Radio Conference 2015 (WRC-15) where radio amateurs gained access to the 60 metre band, ICASA published on 25 May 2018 in the National Radio Frequency Plan an allocation of 100 kHz of spectrum to South African Radio Amateurs. There are two separate footnotes in the plan, splitting access to the 60-metre band into three segments.

In footnote 5.133B there is an allocation of 5 351.5 to 5 366.5 kHz with a power limit of only 15 W EIRP. This is the most common allocation in countries where 60 metres is permitted. In footnote NP 0, ICASA has allocated a full 100 kHz. The footnote reads, "The 5 350 - 5 450 kHz segment and the channel 5 290 kHz are allocated on a secondary basis to radio amateurs under Article 4.4 of the ITU regulations. The entire allocation is on a secondary basis which means radio amateurs may not cause interference.

ICASA has however not yet updated Annexure I of the Frequency Spectrum Regulations which stipulates power limits and modulation types. However, in the SARL's motivation to have 100 kHz of 5 MHz spectrum allocated, the SARL requested a power limit of 26 dBW (400 Watts PEP) for ZS and ZR licence holders and 20 dBW (100 watt PEP) for ZU licence holders. These power limits are common in South Africa for all bands that are allocated on a secondary basis. On bands where amateur radio has a primary allocation, the power limit for ZS and ZR licensees is 30 dBW. The current situation is that these power limits for secondary allocations apply on 5 MHz except for the segment 5 351.5 to 5 366.5 kHz where only 15 Watt EIRP is permitted.

The WorkED All ZS 60 metre Award

The SARL is challenging radio amateurs to use the 60 metre band and work towards the SARL Worked All ZS award. The Worked All ZS series of awards is available to all radio amateurs and short-wave listeners. Applicants must prove two-way contacts (or SWL reports) with at least 100 South African call signs. The 60 metre WAZS Award will carry a special "Worked on 5 MHz" endorsement. The call signs must represent the different call areas as per the WAZS rules as follows:

ZS1 - 16 contacts

ZS2 - 8 contacts

ZS3 - 1 contact

ZS4 - 6 contacts

ZS5 - 13 contacts

ZS6 - 56 contacts

Radio Amateurs are encouraged to give genuine signal reports as the data will be processed and will make part of a study of propagation of the 60 metre band. Each application must show the date, time, frequency, power used, both callsigns, and the sent and received accurate signal reports. All applications

for the special 60 Metre Worked All ZS award received by 31 March will participate in the draw for a 2021 ARRL handbook. For application details visit www.zs6p.com/SARL_Awards_Directory.pdf

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UZBEKISTAN JOINS THE 5 MHZ GROUP

Information comes from Fedor, UK9AA of the Radio Amateurs of Uzbekistan, to tell us that permission has been received for Category 1 Uzbek licensees to operate in the new WRC-15 Amateur 60 m Secondary Allocation of 5 351.5 - 5 366.5 kHz with a Maximum Power of 100 W. Prior to this, Fedor was able to obtain a special individual permit from the regulator in 2014, making his first 5 MHz QSO in 2015. He believes he was the first in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) region to have received a licence for 60 m.

[Thank you to Paul Gaskell, G4MWO editor of the % MHZ Newsletter]

THE FIRST 80 M CLUB SPRINT FOR 2021

The first leg of the Wednesday 80 m Club Sprint takes place from 17:30 to 18:30 UTC (19:30 to 20:30 CAT) Wednesday 20 January with phone and CW activity. The exchange is a RS or RST report, your Club name and your 4-character grid square (e.g., KG30). You score 2 points for each QSO, 2 points for each new grid square worked and 1 point for each new Club worked. Submit your log by 23:59 CAT on Monday 25 January to zs4bfm@mweb.co.za. Please note that the time and the exchange have been altered. Turn to page 63 of the 2021 SARL Blue Book for all the information.

Clubs hosting contests are reminded to advertise your contest by submitting a news item to SARL News for 1 to 2 Sundays before the contest.

CLUB NEWS

The Bo-Karoo ARC held a virtual AGM where the following members were elected to serve on the committee.

Chairman: Pieter Gaybba, ZS3PG

Vice Chairman: Mathys Louw, ZS1TBP

Secretary: Alta Gaybba, ZR3PA

Competition Manager: Woody Collett, ZS3WL

Technical: Tjaart van der Walt, ZS3DR

Additional Members: Nico Engelbrecht, ZS6MAJ/4 and Lambertus Roodt, ZS3LPR

The Hibiscus Coast Amateur Radio Club report that the 145.7375 MHz repeater is out of commission, they are now using the 145.775 MHz repeater with an 88.5 Hz tone. This repeater gives coverage from Southport to Port Edward.

PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to be at low levels. There are currently no sunspot regions visible. No solar flaring is expected. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around four. The 15 to 30 m bands will, especially during the afternoons, provide some DX fun. Please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za for further information.

Finally, a diary of some upcoming events:

13 January – the Office at the NARC opens

15 to 17 January – The PEARS National VHF/UHF Contest

16 January – The Magalies ARC meeting

19 January – The PEARS and Border ARC meetings

20 January – The SARL Wednesday 80 m Club Sprint

23 January – The Summer QRP Sprint; Propagation Summit 2021 and the CTARC and Highway ARC meetings

23 and 24 January – The BARTG RTTY Sprint

26 January – The Secunda ARC meeting

27 January – The Provincial Schools open

31 January - Closing date for AGM motions and nominations for SARL Awards and Council

To conclude our bulletin, a recap of our main news story:

In terms of the outcome of the World Radio Conference 2015 where radio amateurs gained access to the 60 metre band, ICASA published on 25 May 2018 in the National Radio Frequency Plan an allocation of 100 kHz of spectrum to South African Radio Amateurs. There are two separate footnotes in the plan, splitting access to the 60-metre band into three segments.

This concludes our bulletin for this morning.

We invite clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to radio amateurs and shortwave listeners, in both English and Afrikaans, if possible, by following the News Inbox link on the South African Radio League web page. News items to include in the bulletin should reach the news team no later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date.

You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning for the weekly radio program, Amateur Radio Today at 10:00 CAT. The program can be heard on VHF and UHF repeaters countrywide and on 7 082 kHz lower side-band by courtesy of Louis, ZS5LP. A rebroadcast by Andy, ZS6ADY, can be heard on Monday evenings at 19:30 CAT on 3 620 kHz.

We welcome your signal reports, comments and suggestions; please send these by email to artoday@sarl.org.za.

You have listened to a news bulletin compiled by Andy Cairns, ZS6ADY, edited by Paul Johnson, ZS1S and read by

From the news team, best wishes for the week ahead.